REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-6 were pending in this application. By way of this reply, claims 5-6 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1-4 are now pending in this application. Claim 1 is independent, and the remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

Drawings

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that the drawings appear to have never been received. Applicant notes that the present application is a PCT national phase application based on PCT Application No. PCT/JP2005/000391, which was published as International Publication No.WO/2005/077245 dated August 25, 2005, and the published drawings do not include foreign language text. Accordingly, submission of neither original, nor translated, drawings to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office should be required (*See,* PCT Rule 45.5(a)). However, in the interest of expediting prosecution and for the Examiner's convenience, by way of this reply, Applicant submits copies of the formal drawings for this application. As the published drawings are already of record in this case, or should have been, the courtesy copies thereof does not add any new matter.

Specification Amendments

The abstract of the disclosure was objected to because the abstract exceeds the maximum 150 word count. By way of this reply, the abstract has been amended to be within 150 words. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Amendments

By way of this reply, claim 1 has been amended to clarify the claimed invention. Specifically, the claim has been amended to clarify configurational features of the washing water supply pump and washing water tank. Support for the amendments may be found, for example, in Figures 1, 2, and paragraph [0036] of the published specification. Also, the claim has been amended to clarify the features of the washing water distribution pipe. Support for the amendments may be found, for example, in Figure 4 and paragraph [0041] of the published specification. Also, the claim has been amended to clarify the feature of the first connecting pipe. Support for the amendments may be found, for example, in Figures 2 and 3, and paragraph [0040] of the published specification. Also, the claim has been amended to clarify the feature of the main line portion of the washing water distribution. Support for the amendments may be found, for example, in Figures 2 and 4, and paragraphs [0044] and [0046] of the published specification. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 54-11751 ("Shibata").

Applicant notes that, from the context of the Office Action, the above prior art reference which the Examiner relies on for the rejection should be Japanese Patent Application Publication

No. 52-151683 ("Shibata"). As discussed above, by way of this reply, claim 5 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, this rejection is now moot.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibata. By way of this reply, claim 6 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, with regard to claim 6, this rejection is now moot. Regarding the remaining claims, claim 1 has been amended to clarify the invention. Thus, to the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons set forth below.

One or more embodiments of the claimed invention are directed to improving usability of a dishwasher. Referring to the specification and figures as an example, a dishwasher (1) includes a washing water tank (17) and a washing water supply pump (19) to supply washing water to a washing chamber (3). In the front surface of the washing water tank (17) a washing water supply pump (19) is installed so that the inlet and outlet are positioned within the washing water tank (17), thereby the reduction in the number of components and space is achieved (*See,* Figures 1, 2, and paragraph [0036] of the published specification).

The washing water distribution pipe (21) has a main line portion (21b) from the upstream end (21a) passing through the rear of the washing chamber (3) to the top portion of the interior of the washing chamber 3, and an upper upstand (21c) pointing directly downwards in the center of the top portion. Also, the washing water distribution pipe (21) has a lower upstand 21d directly below the upper upstand (21c) branching from the main line portion (21b) and pointing directly upwards (*See,* Figure 4 and paragraph [0041] of the published specification).

An upstream end (21a) of the washing water distribution pipe (21) is inserted into a first connecting pipe (31) formed in the outlet of a casing (29) housing an impeller (28) of the washing pump (19) (*See,* Figures 2, 3 and paragraph [0040] of the published specification).

The main line portion (21b) of the washing water distribution pipe (21) is fixed to the rear surface of the washing chamber (3) by a bracket (36) (*See,* Figure 4 and paragraph [0046] of the published specification).

Accordingly, independent claim 1, as amended, includes, in part, (a) "*wherein the washing water supply pump is installed in a front surface of the washing water tank so that an inlet and an outlet of the washing water supply pump are positioned within the washing water tank,*" (b) "*wherein the washing water distribution pipe comprises a main line portion from the upstream end passing through a rear of the washing chamber to a top portion of an interior of the washing chamber, and an upper upstand pointing directly downwards in a center of the top portion, and the washing water distribution pipe further comprises a lower upstand directly below the upper upstand branching from the main line portion and pointing directly upwards,*" (c) "*wherein an upstream end of the washing water distribution pipe is removably attached to a first connecting pipe connected to an outlet side of a washing water supply pump...,*" and (d) "*wherein the main line portion of the washing water distribution pipe is fixed to the rear surface of the washing chamber by the bracket.*"

Due to the above features, a large space for dishes in the washing chamber can be obtained. Further, the washing water distribution pipe, the rising water distribution pipe, the rising water distribution pipe, the washing nozzle and the rising nozzle can be utilized in the washing chamber, so that handling is very easy (*See,* paragraph [0046] of the published specification).

Further, the washing chamber can be approached from the front and the distribution pipe can be attached and detached from the rear surface of the washing chamber inside the washing chamber. When the washing chamber is approached from the front, the rear surface of the washing chamber is at the far end. However, because the washing chamber is positioned above the washing water tank, the distribution pipe can easily be attached and detached from the rear surface of the washing chamber.

In addition, the washing chamber can be approached from the front and the distribution pipe can be attached and detached from the connecting pipe inside the washing water tank (*See*, Figures 1, 2, 3, and paragraph [0046] of the published specification).

Further, when the washing chamber is approached the front, the washing water tank is at the bottom of the washing chamber. Thus, because the connection of the distribution pipe and the connecting pipe is at the front of the washing water tank, the distribution pipe can be attached and detached from the connecting pipe easily.

Furthermore, the utilized distribution pipe system is fixed to the front of the washing water tank as well as at the rear surface of the washing chamber, *i.e.*, at the front and rear side, such that the distribution pipe system can be held in a stable condition within the washing chamber (*See*, paragraph [0044] of the published specification).

In contrast, Shibata shows a very basic structure of a dishwasher having a washing water pipe in a washing chamber and a washing supply pump. However, Shibata fails to show or suggest at least any of the above limitations (a)-(d), as required by amended claim 1. In fact, Shibata is completely silent about constructing advantageous pipe structures associated with a

main line portion from upstream end passing through and fixed to the rear of a washing chamber, so as to improve usability of a dishwasher, as does the claimed invention.

Masataka merely shows a dishwasher having water supply pipes which are detachable/attachable, but does not provide any features (a)-(d), which Shibata lacks with respect to amended claim 1.

In view of the above, independent claim 1, as amended, is patentable over Shibata and Masataka because, whether separately or in combination, the references fail to show or suggest all of the limitations of the claim. By virtue of their dependence, claims 2-4 are also patentable for at least the same reasons as that of amended independent claim 1.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 07200/082001).

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Respectfully submitted,

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